

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09414 171024Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 CIEP-02 FRB-03 OMB-01 NIC-01 SAM-01

COA-02 FAA-00 DOTE-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 CU-05 COME-00

DRC-01 TRSE-00 /161 W

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R 170911Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3383

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9414

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA, CH, TS

SUBJECT: FONMIN KIMURA'S FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE

1. DURING MAIDEN PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 16, FONMIN KIMURA LAID PRIMARY STRESS ON SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS AS GISTED IN PRESS JULY 17, HE BOTH DESIRE TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE PEACE TREATY, AND EXPECTATION THAT FISHERIES AND SHIPPING AGREEMENTS WOULD BE CONCLUDED IN "SPIRIT OF MUTAL CONCESSION". AS FAR AS "UNFORTUNATE" TAIWAN SITUATION CONCERNED, KIMURA SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CONTINUE THROUGH VARIETY OF CHANNELS. HE "STRONGLY EXPECTED" JAPAN-TAIWAN AIR SERVICES TO RESUME SOONER OR LATER.

2. IN FRANK OUTLINE OF JAPANESE VIEWS ON NPT, FONMIN REITERATED THAT EARLY RATIFICATION REMAINS BASIC GOJ POLICY, BUT THAT SPATE OF RECENT NUCLEAR TEST RENDERED THIS "DIFFICULT."

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 09414 171024Z

3. KIMURA MAINTAINED CAUTIOUS POSTURE ON QUESTION OF ROK SENTENCES FOR JAPANESE STUDENTS, MAINTAINING THAT "POLITICAL DECISIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE REACHED "THE POSSIBLE STAGE, BUT STATED THAT HE PREFERRED TO CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR USHIROKU BEFORE MAKING FURTHER MOVES. (KIMURA MEETING WITH USHIROKU, WHO RETURNS TO SEOUL TOMORROW JULY 18, SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON JULY 17).

4. COMMENT: INITIAL COMMENT AROUND CORRIDORS OF FONOFF WAS THAT ANY CHANGE KIMURA BRINGS WILL BE OF STYLE RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE. MUCH MORE OUTGOING AND ARTICULATE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR OHIRA, KIMURA KNOWN AS DAPPER DRESSER AND SOMEWHAT VAIN. ACCORDING TO PLANNING DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR ARAFUNE, KIMURA'S LONG-TIME CONNECTIONS WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER SATO SHOULD NOT HURT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH PEKING (HE WAS ADVANCE MAN FOR TANAKA VISIT) AND MAY HELP REPAIR TIES WITH TAIWAN.

HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO09414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740191-0988
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740740/aaaabhwe.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN KIMURA'S FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA, CH, TS, (KIMURA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005